

February 21, 2025

The Honorable Michele Guyton
304 Lowe House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Delegate Guyton,

Melwood is one of the nation's leading advocates, employers, and service providers for people with disabilities and their caregivers. We offer employment, job placement, job training, life skills for independence, support services, and youth and community recreational services to more than 3,000 people each year. For more information, visit www.Melwood.org.

Melwood provides a variety of services that are funded by the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) including day habilitation, one-to-one and group community support, employment services (job development, follow along and on-going supports), and personal supports. These services are provided to nearly 400 Marylanders in Prince George's, Charles and Montgomery Counties.

Melwood believes it is critical that members of the provider community are included in discussions and decisions around recommendations that impact the provision of services to individuals with disabilities in the state of Maryland. HB 1244 would ensure that providers have the representation by adding the Arc of Maryland and the Maryland Association of Community Services (MACS) to the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration Waiver Advisory Council.

Melwood supports passage of HB 1244 - Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration Waiver Advisory Council – Establishment.

You can contact me at kmissimer@melwood.org, if you have any questions.

Best Regards,

Katie Missimer
Director, Government Relations
Melwood